

Joseph B. Bugliari

June 7, 1932 — October 20, 2002

When Joe Bugliari retired after five years as Dean of the Faculty in June 1988, he received a number of well-deserved tributes from faculty and university administrators for his substantive and important service to the university. Provost Bob Barker commented:

“The very fact that he started the practice of speaking regularly to the trustees is a measure of Joe’s effectiveness in representing faculty interests and concerns. In general, he’s been infinitely patient, and very effective, in his role as principal consultant to the administration on faculty matters.”

Joe had made a tremendous difference in the life of the university community as teacher, advisor, listener, and confidant of those in need of wise counsel. His integrity was legion and we were all blessed by his more than 30 years service to the campus community.

Joe grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey and graduated from the Pingry School in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He graduated “With Honors” from Hamilton College in 1953, majoring in History and Education, and played with distinction on their golf team. He served for two years in the U.S. Army and finished as a Sergeant and as a member of the Signal Corps golf team. He received his L.L.B. degree “With Distinction” from the Cornell Law School in 1959. He was a member of the Board of Editors and then Managing Editor of the *Cornell Law Quarterly*. The members of his senior class chose him as one of two to be designated Fraser Scholars and elected him to the Order of the Coif.

With his distinguished record in law school behind him, he started work in New York City for a major law firm, Royal, Koegel & Rogers. His practice focused on corporate law, trusts and estates, and litigation. After two valuable years of experience there, he moved to Elmira, New York to serve as a Confidential Law Assistant to Associate Justice Walter B. Reynolds of the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. From this location in 1961, he agreed to teach, on a part-time basis, a course in Business Law for students in the Graduate School of Business and Public Administration at Cornell University. His course received excellent reviews for content and presentation.

In 1967, the College of Agriculture and the Graduate School of Business and Public Administration worked out an arrangement by which they jointly employed Bugliari as an Associate Professor without tenure. This allowed him to teach full-time at Cornell, thereby meeting the needs of both undergraduates and MBA students for courses in business and communication law. Bugliari continued to work on a limited, part-time basis for Justice Reynolds.

This arrangement provided both Joe and his students with a window on the nature of the cases being argued in the court, and the processes by which laws were interpreted and further defined by these cases.

Joe was a wonderful teacher. His enthusiasm for the law and his interest in the well being of students was readily apparent. He agreed to advise undergraduate students interested in agricultural business and was housed for the rest of his university career in Warren Hall. He created a new course in Communication Law at the request of faculty in Communications. He taught two courses in Business Law and one in Estate Planning. In the spring of 1971, the students in the College of Agriculture elected him as their Professor of Merit, an honor accorded to only one professor annually, a reflection of the impact he quickly made in the undergraduate community. For over 20 years, he served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Cornell Daily Sun.

In the spring of 1969, Bugliari was a relatively new face on the Cornell faculty. He continued to teach his classes that spring throughout that period of campus unrest. He was a voice of calm within both Warren and Malott Halls. In the relative quiet that prevailed at the start of the fall semester in 1969, President Dale Corson announced that Joseph B. Bugliari would serve as the university's first Judicial Administrator. This new office was located in Olin Hall and charged with enforcing the University's Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order adopted by the Board of Trustees in July 1969. In addition, this office was designated by the University Faculty to serve as the administrator of the Student Code. From the beginning, the independence of the Office of the Judicial Administrator from any other administrative body was established to assure autonomy in its actions.

One of the most noteworthy accomplishments of the newly established Office of Judicial Administrator was the lack of news or public debate that arose from actions taken by this office. It is a tribute to Bugliari and his deputy Judicial Administrator, Harry Kisker, that the office was quickly established and functioned smoothly. It provided counsel to those needing help, investigative service to gain credible information when necessary, and absolute integrity in keeping confidences. The wisdom of creating the Office of Judicial Administrator, taken in 1969 by President Corson and the Board, is reflected in the continuance of this office and its quiet, but important role in the university community more than 30 years later. The strong leadership of Bugliari in its early years established the pattern and respect for its administrators that remains its hallmark today.

Bugliari was made Associate Professor with tenure in 1970 and full Professor in July 1973. All through the period he served as Judicial Administrator, he continued to teach his classes in Business Law and work with faculty colleagues in teaching Estate Planning and Tax Management directly to practitioners at regional locations across the state, as his contribution to Cooperative Extension. In 1976, he received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for

Excellence in Teaching. In July 1977, he served as Director of Legal Services for the university for two years. In 1982, the New York Bar Association established a new committee of their Substantive Law Division on Agricultural Law with Bugliari as its first chairman. In 1983, he was elected Dean of the Faculty for a three-year term and then reelected for another two years in 1986. Throughout all the years of his service to the university, Joe continued to teach his classes and advise students. None of his many assignments kept him out of the classroom for long.

Golf was an important part of Joe Bugliari's life. He excelled as a competitor from his high school days forward and represented his college, the Signal Corps, and the Elmira and Ithaca Country Clubs on teams with great success. He was fun to play with and a fine teacher on the course as well. He was happy to join his faculty colleagues for the fellowship, not the competition. He always competed against the course but relished his matches with equally skilled players. He had a handicap of 2 at the Elmira Country Club and was inducted into the Elmira Sports Hall of Fame in 1985 for his achievements on and off the golf course. One of the highlights in Joe's golf career was nearly qualifying to play at the U.S. Open. Unfortunately, he was defeated in a qualifier at the Oak Hill Country Club on the fourth, sudden-death playoff hole. He was still playing golf at the Ithaca Country Club into the twenty-first century prior to his death.

Joe retired from Cornell in 1992. He and his wife moved to North Carolina for a period, but returned to Ithaca for their last years. His wife, Jeanne, predeceased him in May 2002. Their son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Donna Turco Bugliari and their children, Bridget and Nicholas of Dryden, New York, and their daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Dana Philbrook and their daughters, Alison and Lauren of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, survive them. Joe's brother and sister-in-law, Miller and Elizabeth Bugliari of New Jersey, and their children also survive him. Joe's students will always remember him as a fine teacher who taught them a great respect for the law and our system of justice. He set an example during his years on the faculty for fairness, objectivity in judgments, and integrity. His colleagues and his students remember him with fondness and benefited greatly from his years on the Cornell campus.

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